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L. Lang, professor of mathematics and physics; Mr. W. Ramirez, professor of Spanish; Miss E. Prat, instructor in biology.

THE Agricultural College of Utah announces the organization of a course in agricultural engineering with departments of irrigation and drainage, road building, farm machinery, farm buildings, hydraulics, rural sanitation and public health. The following appointments to the faculty have been made: R. B. West, C.E. (Cornell), professor of engineering, and Frank Daines, A.M. (Harvard), professor of history, to succeed Professor Harrison Dale, who has accepted a similar position in the Washington University at St. Louis.

THE Syracuse University Medical School has called the following men to its corps of instruction: as assistant professor of bacteriology, Leverett Dale Bristol, A.B., M.D. (Johns Hopkins), of St. Paul, Minn.; as instructor in the department of histology, Earl V. Sweet, A.B., M.D. (Cornell), of Phoenix, N. Y.; as instructor in surgery, Albert G. Swift, M.D. (Syracuse), of New York City; as instructor in pathology, John W. Cox, M.D. (Syracuse). This position was secured by scholarship. At the suggestion of the dean, Colgate University has signified its intention of permitting students to take the senior year in a registered medical college *in absentia*, such students to receive the bachelor's degree upon the presentation of a certificate from the college of medicine attended to the effect that his work has been done satisfactorily.

DR. H. K. ANDERSON, F.R.S., fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, known for his research on the physiology of the nervous system, has been elected master of the college, in succession to the late Rev. E. S. Roberts.

MISS JANET LANE-CLAYPON, M.D., D.Sc. (London), lecturer in hygiene and physiology at Battersea polytechnic, has been appointed lecturer in hygiene and physiology at King's College for Women, London.

THE following appointments have been made at the University of Manchester: Richardson lecturer in mathematics, Mr. W. D.

Evans, M.A., now lecturer in mathematics at Hartley College, Southampton; junior assistant lecturer in physics, Mr. Harold Robinson, B.Sc.; demonstrators in anatomy, Mr. J. B. Stopford, M.B., and Mr. Manfred Moritz.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PHILIPPINE SHARKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have just received two memoirs on Philippine sharks by Dr. H. M. Smith.¹ In the first of these *Pentanchus profundicolus* is described as a new genus and species, and the representative of a new family of Notidanoids; in my opinion this fish belongs to the family Scyliorhinidae, and if, as I suspect may be the case, the absence of the first dorsal fin is abnormal or accidental, it is a *Scyliorhinus* closely related to the species numbered 11 to 14 in my synopsis.² The second paper deals with the Squalidae, and on comparing with my synopsis³ I find that the new genus *Nasisqualus* corresponds to a section of *Centrophorus* which has already received the names *Acanthidium* and *Deania*; a second new genus, *Squalidus*, is valid, differing from *Euprotomicrus* in the structure and position of the first dorsal fin.

C. TATE REGAN

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

ARAGONITE COATING GRAVEL PEBBLES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On a trip to Clinton, Massachusetts, with Professor George H. Barton, I found in a gravel pit, directly opposite the station, a number of large pebbles with the white coating of calcium carbonate that one often sees. A hemispherical radiate growth up to 5 mm. long, at certain points, attracted my attention, and I took a couple of pebbles home. The coating, to my great surprise, proved both by Meigen's test with cobalt nitrate and by optical tests (-ex. o cleavage parallel elongation) to be aragonite.

Though I have made no goniometer investigation, the divergent prismatic crystals with

¹ *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, XII., 1912.

² *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8), I., 1908, p. 453.

³ *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (8), II., 1908, p. 39.